

Manitoba University, History

The Manitoban

Special Centennial Supplement

1877

The University of Manitoba

(By AMBER L. GLENN)

1927

To found a University in Manitoba in 1877 required an optimism difficult to understand. The Province had only been in existence six years. The population, including Indians, was less than sixty-five thousand. There were sixty-nine elementary schools supported by the Government, but no secondary schools with Government support. There was no popular demand for a University. Nevertheless, in 1877, the Lieutenant-Governor, Alexander Muir, succeeded in persuading the Government of the day to bring before the Legislature an "Act to establish a Provincial University." The Act established "one University for the whole of Manitoba," and this seems to have been the main reason for creating this University so early in the life of the Province.

The Act aroused little discussion in the Legislature. No editorials, or even press comment on the University appeared in the daily papers until 1887. The only question made of the University during those years, by the press, was in connection with the quarterly meeting of the Council of the University. The names of those present at each meeting were given, and a bare outline of the pertinent decisions made. Thus quietly and unnoted the foundations of the University were laid.

The University as originally constituted consisted of the three existing denominational colleges—St. Boniface, St. John's and Manitoba—whose union was made in the Act for the affiliation of other colleges which they reached a standard of efficiency upon being granted to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. Each college financed itself, and carried on its work independently, except in so far as was limited by the common examination arranged by the Council of the University. As the majority of the Council was supplied by the colleges, the colleges in practice controlled the examinations, the granting of degrees, and the management of the University. The actions of the Council had been approved by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, but this control was nominal.

The University Act of 1877 was clear and definite, and although it has been amended nineteen times in the fifty years of its existence, the present government of the University still retains many features found in the original Act.

No period in the history of the University is more interesting than that between 1877 and 1890, when the system with all its myriad details was being developed. The early Councils of the University faced a difficult task. They had to organize a university system that would satisfy the standards of the federated colleges, and yet be a continuation of an elementary system, satisfactorily administered, over which they had no control. The problems of organization were attacked under the leadership of Archbishop Machray (then Bishop Machray) as Chancellor, and the Honorable Joseph Roy as Vice-Chancellor. The first statute passed by the University was: "The Chancellor shall call the first meeting of the University, and it shall meet at the Court House, October the fourth, 1877, at half-past three o'clock." The organization meeting took place in accordance with this statute, and at this meeting Major E. W. Jarvis, was chosen as the first Registrar. The first six students registered in the University were from St. John's College. The first degree from the University was conferred on William Reginald Gunn, a student from Manitoba College, who was the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1880. The first Master of Arts Degree was conferred in 1884. Women students were first admitted to the University in 1890, after the question

had been discussed for six years. In 1884, a reading course in Law was arranged by the University and the Law Society jointly, and the first LL.B. Degree was obtained in 1890. The Medical College was affiliated with the University in 1882, and its first students were graduated from the University in 1886. Wesley College was affiliated in 1888.

The financing of the University soon forced itself on the attention of the Council. The Act of 1877 provided, "that a sum not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars shall be placed at the disposal of the Council of the University to make the expenses incidental to the organization of the same." It did not seem to be realized that the University as constituted, would need support from the public treasury beyond organization expenses. Nevertheless small grants were made annually. In 1887 the financial clause in the University Act was amended to read: "A sum not less than two hundred and fifty dollars shall be placed annually at the disposal of the University for the work of the same." This minimum being granted from 1877 to 1884, it was then gradually increased until in 1890 it reached \$3,560, for the first

It had apparently not been the intention of the Dominion Government to cause much delay over the issue of patents, since as early as 1880, when only forty-two thousand acres of land had been selected, a draft form of patent was submitted to the Council of the University. But this draft contained no provision that if the constitution of the University was changed, the fund from the land grant and the unused land should revert to the Dominion Government. During 1889 the Council of the University had been vigorously discussing the question of the University undertaking the work of teaching. The Province had made rapid advance in population and with this advance the need for university training had correspondingly increased. The colleges, supported as they were by their respective denominations, could not be expected to undertake more than they were already doing. The lack of proper equipment for the teaching of science was keenly felt. The subject of denominational schools was prominently before the public, and it was to be expected that when the educational problem was so much in evidence, the need of expansion and improvement in University training

once be established in Natural Science, Mathematics and the Modern Languages, and that at least five professors would be needed. After a long debate, this report—one of the most important ever presented to the Council—was adopted.

The next step was to interview the Government as to what increase in the annual grant they were prepared to make. The Government pointed out that the establishment of a University staff carried with it the necessity of choosing a site for the University and the erection of a permanent building. The Government in 1889 was an unwilling to make a decision as later governments. It asked for a delay of action.

In the meantime the need of a more up-to-date type of science teaching was so acute, that the Council of the University decided, in 1890, to bridge the interval by allowing the three colleges—St. John's, Manitoba and Wesley—to combine for the teaching of science. Each college made itself responsible for one instructor. This system was continued until 1900.

In 1892 the University Act was amended giving the University power "to give such instruction and teaching in the several faculties and different branches of knowledge as it might see fit to time to time be directed by the Council." But there were no funds available in 1892 to finance expansion. The Provincial Council brightened. The negotiations for the land patents were nearing a satisfactory conclusion. It was decided that the University Government should lend to the University the sum of \$50,000 to build and equip a Science Building, by lease in perpetuity, as security for the loan, a mortgage on its lands. The Government agreed to this proposition.

The First Site Question

The site question had next to be settled. Various locations were discussed. Provincial Councils were called to come to the rescue by offering to transfer to the University the portion of the Hudson's Bay Company's land known as the "Old Driving Park," recently conveyed by the Dominion Government to the Province of Manitoba for educational purposes. It was decided to accept this offer, and the University came into the possession of the "Broadway site," by lease in perpetuity at a nominal rent of one dollar a year. The property contained 5.6 acres. The Science Building was started in 1890, one year after the issuing of the land patents. It was completed in 1901.

The progress of the University of Manitoba between 1877 and 1900, was a year by year process of growth and often discouraging. It was not yet reaping the benefits from its "Broadway site," by lease in perpetuity but the land was available for sale when an opportune time came. The sale of the site in 1900 was a very little, but the right of the University to the site was secured. The University, all through this quarter of a century of stress and struggle, the educational standards had been continuously raised.

Yet even with the site donated, and the Science Building erected, it looked for a time as if progress were at a standstill. The revenue from the sale of university lands was needed to pay the interest on the money advanced by the Provincial Government. The Government would only assume responsibility for the annual grant of \$5,000, and this sum was not sufficient to warrant the University in appointing a faculty as a permanent staff. The plan had to be put in force. It was agreed that the three professors from the University—Archbishop Machray, Byrre, Dr. Laird and Professor Kendrick—who had hitherto been paid by the colleges for the instruction of their

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The Administration Building

time. It continued at that level until 1900. The University revenue was increased between 1884 and 1889 by the assignment to it of the marriage license fee which during those years were ear-marked for University purposes.

Generosity of Dr. Ishbister. In 1887 the University received its first and largest bequest for the establishment of the scholarship fund, known as the Ishbister Trust. Dr. K. Ishbister, a native of the Red River settlement, bequeathed the residue of his estate, after certain settlements had been made, to the University. When the estate was converted into cash it amounted to \$83,600.

The Dominion Government Grant

But the burning question of the year 1877 to 1890, and even until 1898, was that of the land grant. More time of the University during those years was spent on its discussion than on any other issue, and finally it became involved in 1889 with the question of the University becoming a teaching body. In 1878 application was made to the Dominion Government for a land grant as an endowment for the University. During seven years this request was urged on the Dominion Government, and finally in 1885 the Dominion Government granted to the University an allotment of "one hundred and twenty acres of first class agricultural quality." The allocating of the land took another six years, and it was not until 1891 that the University received the land. The Dominion Government, which enabled the Council of the University to put the land on the market, the first year of the land grant was received in 1900.

would have its share of discussion, especially when the University was on the point of receiving what amounted to a state support, in the form of a land endowment. The most obvious method of expansion was for the University to become a teaching body. The controversial point was whether it could do so under its charter. The representatives from St. Boniface College claimed that if the University undertook the work of teaching, the constitution as outlined in the Act of 1877 describing the University of 1877 would be altered, and that this would involve the loss of the land grant. They further argued that they could only have joined with the other denominations for the carrying on of the University, on the clear understanding that the University should never undertake teaching, and that the phrase in the preamble to the Act of 1877 describing the University of 1877 "on the model of the University of London," indicated the original intention of the Dominion Government. It was contended by the representatives of the other colleges that the words "on the model of the University of London" were not to be taken as a promise of no professorship or teaching at present, showed that the intention of the founders had been that at some future time the University would become a teaching body. The question had to be settled before the patents could be issued.

Instructions in the University

Finally in October, 1889, the Council of the University passed a motion to appoint a committee to inquire into the feasibility of the University undertaking the work of teaching, and make a report on ways and means. The decision of the committee to take the chairs in the University should at

St. Boniface College: Its Foundation and History

(By HENRY F. SMEATON, S.J.)

In September, 1818, Father Provancher opened in St. Boniface a school for the boys. This was the first school in the colony. The following year we find him teaching Latin and sciences to two boys, thus instituting higher education in the country and beginning what is today known as St. Boniface College. In these words the compiler of the Confederation Jubilee Programme for St. Boniface, records the foundation of one of the institutions that were later to become the affiliated colleges of the University of Manitoba.

The Red River Mission

As early as 1761, a Jesuit, Father Charles Michel Menager, had come west as far as the Lake of the Woods and in 1768, another Jesuit, Father Jean-Pierre Aulneau (not Aulneau, as Dr. Bryce erroneously writes the name) accompanying Lavenderie, was massacred by the Sioux at the southern extremity of the same lake. In 1742, Father Claude-Godfrey Cochart, S. J., reached the Red River and was the first priest to see the future sites of Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie. These men, all of whom were highly educated Frenchmen, were the forerunners of our educational institutions in the West, for it was their heroic example that turned the eyes of the French voyageurs to this rich country and sent them out in such numbers that some eighty-five years

wherever possible. Provancher proceeded west by the traditional route from Montreal, by Lac Seul, through the Ottawa Valley to Mattawa, then through Lake Nipissing, Huron and Superior to Fort Snelling, thence by difficult portages to Cross Lake, through the Lake of the Woods, down the Winnipeg River to Lake Winnipeg and then up the Red River to Fort Douglas. Father Provancher made a very fruitful impression on the minds of Lord and Lady Selkirk and on the numerous colonists gathered on the river bank, as with joy in their eyes they looked at their missionary, a fine stalwart figure six feet four inches in height.

The First College

The young priest, true to the charge laid on him by Bishop Pleissis, set about at once the establishment of a school and in September of the very year of his arrival opened classes for boys in St. Boniface. Father Morice, O.M.I., writing of this period in his monumental work on the History of the Catholic Church in Western Canada, says: "The schools maintained by the Bishop and his priests were one of the heaviest expenses the new mission had to bear. It may safely be said that the Catholic clergy considered them as of vital importance. We may well admire the untiring efforts made to continue them, especially when we take into account the instability of the population that made

building sixteen feet square, a typical log cabin, situated on the eastern bank of the Red River at a distance in front of the present Old Fort's Home. The door was on the southern side facing towards what is now Newwood. In each of the other walls was a window twenty inches square, with no glass but sashes hung up to keep out the cold. There was no stove in the building and in the winter time when the boys found Father Provancher they used to take off their moccasins and put their feet in the ashes about the wood fire, built on the earth in the centre of the cabin. Not exactly the life of our modern college club rooms.

These details are strictly historical and were copied down in 1878, from the declarations of two former pupils, Messrs. Lacominard and Damsais. Both at the same time commented somewhat ruefully on the strictness of the discipline maintained by the first teachers even in these pioneer days. Among those who taught in the first years, besides Father Provancher himself, were Father Desrosiers, who is mentioned in Sir Thomas Francis's "House of the Fathers," and Father Harpo, the first priest ordained in St. Boniface, Mr. William Edges and others.

The site of the first log cabin and of the boys' playground is now below the waters of the Red River. The great and disastrous flood of 1855,

from Fort Garry to drill the boys, had a squad of fifty boys under him. In 1877 the University was formed with the three Colleges of St. Boniface, St. John's and St. Mary's. At that time Father Forget Desnois was at the head of the College. He remained at St. Boniface until 1881, when Father Cherrier then took charge of the College. Work was begun in 1889 in the new building that was to do duty till 1922.

In the month of August, 1885, the College was given over to the Jesuit Fathers, who have since had charge of it. It had previously been under the direct supervision of the first Bishop himself, of lay teachers, the Brothers of the Christian Schools, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and the Secular Clergy. It had had many well known names on its faculty list. Besides those already mentioned were Monsignor Chouinard, Father Lafob, Father George Dugas, Father Lovio, Father Jovine, Father Mosier and others.

Father Hippolyte Lavy was the first Jesuit Rector. With him on the staff were very able teachers, Fathers and Brother Joseph Blain, both of whom were to render the college a considerable service. In the year 1922, the history of the College was one of almost uninterrupted success.

In 1885 there were 166 students. In 1886 there were 184 students. In 1910 there were 374 students. In 1922 there were 439 students.

During the night of November 22nd, 1885, a severe fire broke out that razed the College to the ground, took the life of one of the members of the staff and destroyed and destroyed the magnificent library with its precious documents of early days, the semaphores, and other valuable instruments. In this crisis Archbishop Beliveau showed himself of the same mettle as his great predecessors. Every sacrifice was made to ensure the continuance of higher education. He immediately put at the disposal of the Jesuit Fathers his magnificent Little Seminary. This building the College has since occupied. In 1904, a new wing was added, containing air-proof dormitories, recreation halls and a spacious auditorium. For a time the progress of the College naturally suffered from the great disaster of the fire; but it would seem with its 397 students and its staff of the scholastic year of 1925-27 that it is well on its way to its former proud position.

The Training Given at St. Boniface

The education given at St. Boniface is the traditional one of the Society of Jesus. Backed by the long experience of nearly four hundred years and an esprit de corps rarely attainable in human associations, each young Jesuit is very carefully and painstakingly trained for just such work as the Society is carrying on at St. Boniface College—the formation of the young mind. Before entering the novitiate, the young man is to have made, in whole or in part, his Arts course. When he enters the novitiate, he enters it under the tutelage of a learned and experienced man of worldly advancement and temporal remuneration and dedicates himself to the service of God. In the novitiate of seven years, the novitiate or fourteen years of preparation before the young aspirant is ordained priest and sent to his college to work on the ministry or in the colleges.

In the colleges the chief aim in view is the moral formation of the boys in every sense of the word, and hard assistance attention to study. In the studies, great insistence is laid on the mastery of every detail. In the thorough course is given in the Sciences. At St. Boniface a serious effort is made to make a pupil personal attention. The religious feels that he is responsible before God for every word he says, for every moral and intellectual development of those entrusted to his care and he leaves no stone unturned in his efforts to make this ideal a reality. St. Boniface has had its due share of success. The College has representatives in almost all branches of the national and scientific careers as well as numerous alumni among both the secular and the secular clergy. It is possible to travel any distance in Western Canada, without meeting a graduate or a former student of St. Boniface College.

St. Boniface College

afterwards, Lord Selkirk, who had led the soldiers of the famous De Meurons Regiment to the Red River, appointed to the Bishop of Quebec, Mr. Pleissis, for priests to take care of the Catholics of the Red River Colony.

In response to this appeal, two priests from Quebec, Father Provancher and Father Desnois, arrived at Fort Douglas on July 18th, 1818. These men came, armed with the authorization of the Archbishop of Quebec, Sir John Cape Sherbrooke, "to disseminate the Christian religion and to afford to the Indians of the Red River and the adjacent Indian Territories the benefit of the rites thereof," and with the expressed desire of the Governor that all persons "render them all good offices, assistance and protection wherever they shall find it necessary to go in the exercise of their holy calling." Lord Selkirk and the Hudson's Bay Company did more even for the missionaries than carry out the injunction and wish of Sherbrooke.

The Founder, Mr. Provancher

The founder of St. Boniface College, Joseph Norbert Provancher, was born at Nicolet in Lower Canada on Feb. 12th, 1787, studied at the new seminary there and was ordained priest on Dec. 31st, 1811. In 1814, he was parish priest of St. Clair, near Montreal, and afterwards of Kamouraska. Bishop Pleissis, despatching Father Provancher, with his companion, Father Joseph Nicholas Desnois to the Red River, urged the priest to interest himself actively in the education of the youth of the colony and to establish schools

up the Indians, Canadians and half-breeds brought up to the wandering life of the open prairie, where a good literary education seemed hardly a necessary adjunct."

In 1821, in various letters we find requests for books—text books, grammars and other class books; in 1822, new Latin dictionaries, various new French translations, and some of the boys had already studied Latin, Curtius, the Gospels, the Acts and the Epistles, and the new edition of the Humanities (Frobenius Year). The first boys who studied Latin at St. Boniface were a certain Samuel and Victor Chénier. In the spring of 1821, three years after his arrival at St. Boniface and we agree with Father Morice that this constitutes the definite establishment of higher education in Western Canada.

For many years the young missionary bishop worked hard for the advancement of this College. Indeed, that the College was able to continue at all is due to the untiring efforts of Mr. Provancher. Whenever he was in St. Boniface, he seems himself to have taught in the school. In 1827, when the first teachers were absent, they were received by the Bishop in his own house. Amid all the unremitting labors required to govern a vast expanse of territory as constituted the diocese of St. Boniface, Bishop Provancher was able to give to the Archbishops Tache, Langevin and Beliveau have always given the College more than its fair share of attention and support.

Pioneer Days

The first school-house was a little

which discouraged so many of the early Swiss settlers and sent them off to seek more hospitable shelter in the United States, but which in no wise daunted the hardy Metis and French-Canadian colonists as ruined the little school house that in 1833, a few site was selected very near the front of the present Cathedral and another school house, eighteen feet by fifteen, of elm bark, was erected. This was about thirty feet from the Bishop's house, near the site of the famous twin-towered Cathedral, immortalized by John Greenleaf Whitcomb in his poem on the Red River Voyageur:

The voyageur smiles as he lingers
To the sound that grows apace;
Well he knows the Vesper ringing
Of the bells of St. Boniface.

The bells of the Roman Mission.
That call from their currents twin
To the bottom of the river,
To the hush on the plain.

Progress: A New Building, The Third

During practically all this time the boys were living with the Bishop in his own "palace." It was not until 1834 that a log house was erected for them. This building, a considerable one for these times, was sixty feet long and thirty-four deep, and stories high. It later served as a girls' academy, as city hall, as a little seminary, and as a summer school for the convent of the Carmelite Sisters on Tache Ave.

The number of pupils had grown considerably. We read that in 1860 a military officer, who came regularly

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time to University work and be paid for this building by the University.

Teaching under this arrangement was carried on from 1906 to 1914, but by 1904 the popularity of the science courses was such that a further expansion was imperative. The Government was still unwilling to give the necessary aid. Through the efforts of Dr. Bryce, Lord Strathcona had become interested in the University and its financial straits. Strathcona donated \$20,000 towards the Science Department. This money was to be given in four payments of \$5,000 each, in the years 1904, 1906, 1908, and 1910. The University could now count on \$12,000 annually for at least four years, and with this small sum it felt itself in a position to organize a Faculty of Science with a reputation for excellence. The Science Department, on its new lands was opened October the first, 1904. At first of the professors were to teach two subjects each, work was begun in ten subjects.

Further Expansion

But the organization of the Science Department was only one step forward in expansion. A Modern Language Department had not been organized until 1909. More accommodation was a necessity even for the Science Department. Hence this further expansion to be financed. The solution was to make an appeal to the Government. But before such an appeal could be made the proportion of expansion, in all its ramifications, would have to be argued anew in the Council of the University.

If the Government was to finance an advance movement it would expect to exercise more control in the University affairs. Was the Council of the University ready to agree to curtailment of its own power in the management of the University? To what extent would the Government demand control? Would the University of Manitoba become a State University? If the people's money was used to support the University would there again come, continue to subvert the denominational colleges? Would an expansion of teaching in the University around the death knell of the denominational colleges? What would be the status of these colleges in a State University? Was the site large enough for such a University? Could the area of the present site be increased? What would be the future needs of the university? If the present site had to be abandoned where was to be obtained the University? The problems to be solved seemed to revolve in a circle, and to be as interlocked that the circle could be settled without prejudice to the others. It was becoming clear that a university policy would have to be outlined, and agreement reached on it by the University Council, before advancement could be made. But to formulate a policy broad enough to satisfy those who were in favor of University expansion, and yet with sufficient safeguards to the interests of those whose interests centred in the denominational colleges was no easy task. In all this the Council was handicapped by the knowledge that however adequate the policy outlined, the Government might ignore it, or render it ineffectual by long delays.

Committee after committee was appointed by the Council of the University to urge on the Government the necessity of formulating a University policy, and giving it the support of such an institution deserved. The Government refused to commit itself to a definite policy, but promised to increase its annual grant to \$15,000. Finally, in 1907, the Council asked the Government to appoint a Commission to investigate and make a report on the University question. The report of this Commission, when published in 1910, was a disappointment to all interested. The Commission had been unable to reach a decision on a University policy, as had been the Council of the University or the Government. To quote the report of the Commission, "the vital difference of opinion was as to whether the denominational colleges should have representation upon any of the governing bodies of the University, and the extent and character of that representation." But if the Commission had failed to reach a decision on the University policy it did demonstrate clearly that the Government must take the initiative and the responsibility in defining a policy. The Government, however, postponed action. It could do so safely. There was no mandate from the public demanding action. There were no surplus funds. Additional taxes would not tend to increase the Government's popularity.

Although the future policy of the University was so uncertain, between 1904 and 1910, the University itself was not at a standstill. The Pharmaceutical Association was affiliated with the University in 1902, and a course leading to a degree in Pharmacy established in 1905. In 1907 the Manitoba Agricultural College was affiliated with the University by Order-in-Council. In 1907 the Government increased its grant, enabling the University to form a Department in Civil Engineering, and a Department in Electrical Engineering was added in 1909, and professors were appointed to the chairs of Political Economy, History and Geology. The Council in 1900 decided to erect a new building to the north of the first University building at a cost of \$125,000.

The winter of 1907 the University gave its first course of popular lectures, and in 1909 the University was expanding in spite of financial handicaps and public indifference that the site question became in issue. Dr. Butler, in 1910, proposed that the University should buy two hundred acres adjoining the Assiniboine Park and

The Tuxedo Site

It was during these years, 1904 to 1910, when the University was expanding in spite of financial handicaps and public indifference that the site question became in issue. Dr. Butler, in 1910, proposed that the University should buy two hundred acres adjoining the Assiniboine Park and

position to give valuable advice during the process of re-adjustment. He would be able to preserve a balance between the confusing and conflicting interests which would be interwoven themselves into the life of the University. Dr. James Alexander McLean was appointed to this difficult position in December, 1912, and began his work early in 1913.

The first question to be dealt with was the carrying out of the Tuxedo agreement. The Government refused to grant money for a new building unless it was erected on the Broadway site. The Council felt that the University would be hampered for all time if the Broadway site became its permanent home. As a compromise, the Government let it be known that it was willing to convey to the University for a site, a tract of land comprising one hundred and thirty-seven acres lying between the Agricultural College and the Red River, and on this site to erect and equip an Engineering Building. The Council agreed to this proposal, and the final title of the property was transferred to the Council in December, 1913.

Rapid Progress

It seemed possible now to undertake the long-delayed expansion. In 1912 chairs were established in French, German and Architecture, and in 1914 Departments of Classics, Pharmacy and Pathology were organized. The University was thus able in the fall of 1914 to offer instruction for the complete Arts Course, with the exception of Philosophy, Hebrew, Arabic and Sanskrit. At the same time, students not associated with any college were registered in the University.

It had a hundred and thirty-two students, and there still remained unsold about one-third of the land grant. The capital of the Tuxedo Trust had reached the sum of \$125,000. The University buildings were valued at \$20,000. It held the lease of the Broadway site from the Pharmacy Building. The University was giving instruction in twenty-two subjects, employed thirty-two full-time, twenty-two part-time, eight assistant professors, thirteen lecturers, and ten demonstrators. In the same year, some progress when the struggle of the Council of the University to provide for the future of the University as professors in 1904 is remembered. Yet had the criterion for estimating the value of the University been the growth of its endowments, or the number and beauty of its buildings or the suitability of its surroundings, the outlook would have been discouraging.

The Medical Faculty

The new status of the University was of once apparent. In the fall of 1917 the Faculty of the Medical College offered to hand over its land, and its buildings to the University, and return its charter of incorporation to the Government, on condition that the Government should create a Faculty of Medicine. This was agreed to by the Board of Governors, and the transfer was consummated in 1921. At the same time, the Rockefeller Foundation, in 1920, announced its intention of donating \$500,000 to the development of medical teaching and health in Canada. The Board of Governors was in a position to urge for consideration the claims of the Medical Faculty of the University. The Rockefeller Foundation was to contribute \$500,000 on \$500,000 at 5 per cent to the University, on condition that the Province should contribute \$500,000 to the Building, and increase its yearly grant by \$25,000. The Government agreed to this plan for consideration, the pledge were made in 1921. The Pharmaceutical Association handed over its land to the University in 1921. The Faculty of Arts and Science was rounded out by the addition of the departments of Zoology and Psychology in 1920. The re-organization of the University was thus becoming effective in 1921. These facilities for the establishment of Faculties of Arts and Science, of Engineering, and of Medicine. To these was added in March the year 1917, and came into force May the eleventh, at the close of the annual exercises conferring degrees.

A Provincial University

In 1916 the Council of the University again attacked the problem of a University policy. It asked the Government to re-organize the University on the basis of state control and state responsibility. The Government drafted an amendment to the University Act which the Council of the University was to pass. "That as a Council we approve the Draft Bill, whereby the University, and its constituent colleges, and the University are vested in a Board of Governors appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. The Bill was assented to by the Council in 1917, and came into force May the eleventh, at the close of the annual exercises conferring degrees.

The most important change made by the new Act was the formation of a Board of Governors to control the University. The Council was continued in a modified form. It was given the right of appointing the staff of the University, but its powers did not in any wise limit the full powers of the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors, appointed entirely by the Government, was responsible for the people, and when given extensive powers under the Act, is directly responsible to the people. It is the only body that uses its majesty of three powers. The University of Manitoba in 1917 became a national and a Provincial University. It had developed in the forty years of its existence from a University which existed only as a central examining body, controlled by the several denominational colleges, to a University supported and governed by the Province, and with possibilities of service limited only by the desires of the people and the resources of the Province.

The fundamental problem had been settled by the Legislature of 1917, but the site question remained to be considered, and the ever-present, ever-growing issue of adequate financing to the University. The Government had proposed, as in the past, but the latter had to be faced. The war was still in progress, and the Government would have to be content with giving a large grant for University buildings. In 1918, when the war was over, it was a foregone conclusion that for some years to come, financial conditions would be very unstable. Hence the Province was in no position to undertake an expansion program that would entail large expenditure on buildings.

The fundamental problem of the University, in 1917, was distressingly small for a University as centrally placed in the Dominion, and with an opportunity for leadership in a Province still comparatively undeveloped. It had a hundred and thirty-two students, and there still remained unsold about one-third of the land grant. The capital of the Tuxedo Trust had reached the sum of \$125,000. The University buildings were valued at \$20,000. It held the lease of the Broadway site from the Pharmacy Building. The University was giving instruction in twenty-two subjects, employed thirty-two full-time, twenty-two part-time, eight assistant professors, thirteen lecturers, and ten demonstrators. In the same year, some progress when the struggle of the Council of the University to provide for the future of the University as professors in 1904 is remembered. Yet had the criterion for estimating the value of the University been the growth of its endowments, or the number and beauty of its buildings or the suitability of its surroundings, the outlook would have been discouraging.

The new status of the University was of once apparent. In the fall of 1917 the Faculty of the Medical College offered to hand over its land, and its buildings to the University, and return its charter of incorporation to the Government, on condition that the Government should create a Faculty of Medicine. This was agreed to by the Board of Governors, and the transfer was consummated in 1921. At the same time, the Rockefeller Foundation, in 1920, announced its intention of donating \$500,000 to the development of medical teaching and health in Canada. The Board of Governors was in a position to urge for consideration the claims of the Medical Faculty of the University. The Rockefeller Foundation was to contribute \$500,000 on \$500,000 at 5 per cent to the University, on condition that the Province should contribute \$500,000 to the Building, and increase its yearly grant by \$25,000. The Government agreed to this plan for consideration, the pledge were made in 1921. The Pharmaceutical Association handed over its land to the University in 1921. The Faculty of Arts and Science was rounded out by the addition of the departments of Zoology and Psychology in 1920. The re-organization of the University was thus becoming effective in 1921. These facilities for the establishment of Faculties of Arts and Science, of Engineering, and of Medicine. To these was added in March the year 1917, and came into force May the eleventh, at the close of the annual exercises conferring degrees.

(Continued on page 5)

From the Convocation Address of the Chancellor

Most Rev. Archbishop S. P. Matheson, D.D., D.C.L. May 18, 1927

As perhaps you know, we are celebrating the life of the semi-centenary in the life of the University. The graduates of this sesquicentennial year, therefore, can never forget this memorable year and that they go out as Jubilee sons and daughters of their alma mater and that they rejoice with her in the observance of her golden anniversary. Forasmuch as this is an epoch filled with many memories. As your Chancellor I can remember when there was no University of Manitoba at all. I can remember, and possibly some other educationists on this platform with me can remember, when we crossed, not the Jordan perhaps, but still I say the Rubicon, dividing ourselves from existing Colleges in this new land, useful but no degree-conferring institutions, to a new organization possessing degree-giving powers. We crossed, not perhaps with a staff in our hands, but with a bundle of books under our arms to help in the establishing of an infant University for our Province. In 1877 the University became a legal entity and soon after we went on teaching in our various Colleges, but with a different viewpoint, with a new staff, understanding our students up for University examinations. Three years afterwards the University produced its first graduate in Arts, though some of us had graduated in Theology some-what earlier. This graduate was the son of one of the most highly respected families of the old Red River settlement, and a family possessed of more than ordinary mental capacity. I have used the word "vision" and I observe that a reputable dictionary gives it as meaning "a sheet of the first year." The graduate's name was Gann, but I don't want any of you to recall the day as if it were yesterday, and explain that this was the first man fired by the University. However, recall the day as if it were yesterday, and explain that this was the first man fired by the University. However, recall the day as if it were yesterday, and explain that this was the first man fired by the University. However, recall the day as if it were yesterday, and explain that this was the first man fired by the University.

At times it is possible to hear loudly whispered criticisms of the development of our University here, and to compare with its ups. It is quite true that from the point of view of physical assets, this building is a masterpiece, that is, the development has not been worthy of the pioneer province of the West. We have to admit that rather shameful financial circumstances, into the details of which I have no time to enter, have doubtless been responsible for the lack of this kind of development. But, as I ventured to state in my recent article for Year Book, while the bulk of the period through which we have passed and indeed as to the permanent site may doubtless have been well-served to be satisfied with what we have had, the time is up and more must be done. Our money, our staff, our achievements, our prestige, all combine to demand this and that imperatively. The Government of our Province and our citizens must face the fact that the problem without any further delay. I know that there are realists in the way, but they are not insuperable and they should be met with difficulties have ever been to the building, the optimistic and the pessimistic—opportunities for achievement. But this is only by the way, though it is extremely important and must not be lost sight of, but must be kept before us not merely as an ideal for a far distant future but as a practical necessity in the very near future.

What I desire to bring before you this morning, however, are some facts and figures which I want to make a revelation to you as they have done to me of what I do not hesitate to call an extraordinary and magnificent expansion of our University in other respects. Casual observers, as outside spectators, look at the University and are amazed at its appearance in physical structure, etc., but when we look at the throbbing heart of the inner working of the institution we have ample reason for



Justification when marking our jubilee. A few facts and figures, as I have already stated, will reveal this.

Some of us can recall when there was no teaching staff at the University at all and when the affiliated Colleges did all the instructional work. In 1880 we had three lecturers in Natural Science, lent by the affiliated Colleges. Today we have 111 full-time professors and their assistants and in addition 1083 part-time instructors, mainly in the Faculty of Medicine. I remarked that at our first convocation only one student graduated. This year we shall have no less than 390 and would have had about 400 were it not that through a change in the curriculum several honor students are taking an extra year. We have no record of the number of students from the affiliated Colleges enrolled in the University at the beginning, but I note that this year we have the large aggregate of 2,488 in the various courses. Examining the comparative statistics of the enrollment of the eighteen universities of Canada, we discover that in the matriculation of the past few years the University of Toronto, with its much longer life history, shows an increasing rate. Considering the comparatively small population of our Province and the fact that there are two other viceregal Universities in the prairie provinces west of us, this is a most encouraging record. And the gratifying feature of the situation is that the increase has not been diminishing at recent years have gone by and other similar institutions have sprung up. For example, I have examined the net enrollment of the past few years beginning with 1922-23 and I find that the increase over that date has been 448. In the past few years we have added another 440 to the numbers under instruction. Besides these, the University has since 1923 been adding 100 students to the numbers under instruction. In addition, the University has since 1923 been adding 100 students to the numbers under instruction. In addition, the University has since 1923 been adding 100 students to the numbers under instruction.

You must not weary you with further statistics, but from what I have ventured to say, you will realize that the expansion of our University all along the line in instructional work, in the building of the material and in gratifying character. Obviously there must be some strongly attesting influence drawing students to our classrooms and I am confident

that the attraction arises from the efficiency and competence of the able staff which we have succeeded in attaching to our University. It only remains for us by making generous and ample provision for further developments for our State University, not only to retain the staff we have, but augment and enrich it as the needs arise. A further reason therefore on the part of the State and of our citizenship should be unthinkable, I mention the citizenship, for surely the time has come when some of our business men, our mercantile princes and others who have reaped copiously out of this Western heritage of ours, should extend their benevolence to our Provincial University and make it worthy of the traditions of the province of Western Canada. It may be thought that a State University should not need the support of citizens, but I venture to confront this supposition on several grounds.

First, while ours is a State University, in the last analysis by that very fact it is the property of the citizens of the Province. It is not the possession and the responsibility merely of the Cabinet up at the Government House. It is ours, Provincial University and we have only one Provincial University, not two or three as some of the Provinces have. In the second place, our State is a comparatively young State and has been obliged to rely in the matter of primary and secondary schools and has thus less means available for sup-

porting adequately the University which should be in a large measure the crowning culmination of the rest of our educational system. While successfully from the past and resources of our Province the State cannot at present do what it would desire for the University, I contend that it should be not only the privilege of the privilege of our more resourceful citizens to come to the aid of the University. These of us who have followed the expansion of the University of Toronto know well how all comparative recent years the University of Ontario found itself unable to make proper provision for that University. We in Manitoba are passing through a similar stage, when that State does not find itself able to do what I am sure it would like for our Provincial University. And it is just here that a fruitful field for beneficence opens out before our citizens of means and influence to complement and complement the efforts of the State by making contributions to the larger and more important of the University. True, in a young country many of its foremost citizens in wealth and industry have affinities and affiliations with institutions to which possibly they owed their training and culture and their gifts are not likely to be imparted to them. But those who have made their permanent habitat in the West and are not likely to emigrate and emigrants it should seriously think with sympathy and thoughtfulness of the institutions of the larger and more important and extend their beneficence to them. May I be allowed in this connection to paraphrase, but not to misquote, the sage in the old Bush to the possession of us all? If any man provide not for his own and his family, for those who are his neighbor, he is worse than unfaithful. Verbum sapientis sufficit.

The University of Manitoba

(Continued from page 4)
change in University status has been shown from 1922 to 1926-27. In 1917, to 3,530 in 1925-26. These figures include the enrolment in the extension classes and the Summer School.

But this rapid growth, gratifying though it was, forced into prominence the problem of relieving the overcrowding in these rooms, and this in turn focused attention on the necessity for a decision as to a permanent site. The Board of Governors in 1919 passed a motion unanimously, to the effect that the Broadway site was inadequate for the future needs of the University. This prepared the way for a decision between the Tuxedo site and the St. Vital site. The motion passed as to the Tuxedo site was, "that the preference of the Board of Governors for the Tuxedo site, if satisfactory arrangements can be made with the owners thereof." "Satisfactory" arrangements were made when the Tuxedo Holding Company offered to extend for seven years the time limit for beginning building operations—Governor-General Governor-in-Council gave his consent to the University entering into this agreement on November 19, 1920.

Again the necessity for ultimate decision was postponed. But the growth of the University and the Government most responsible not only for a larger annual grant for current expenses, but also for the housing of the students. Action had to be taken. In 1925 the Government gave assent to the Board of Governors that it would erect buildings for temporary accommodation in the way of laboratories, no class-rooms, on the Broadway site. By this move it was hoped to tide over the next five years without excessive capital outlay. The construction of these buildings was completed during 1920, 1921 and 1922. By the fall of 1921, the Board of Governors had decided that the University would be handicapped if plans were not made for beginning permanent buildings. Resolutions to this effect were sent to the Government. The Government—after a whole day of discussion—decided to make a commission make an investigation of the existing system, and to report

recommendations in regard to the University. The report was presented on May 19, 1924 and recommended that the St. Vital site should be chosen as the future home of the University. The Board of Governors of the University met on May 19, 1924 and the College plant could accommodate with comparatively little outlay, a much larger number of students than the existing college, whereas if the Tuxedo site was chosen it would mean, even at the best, an expenditure of \$3,000,000 to construct the necessary buildings.

Further action was taken on the University site, although the option on the Tuxedo site expired on November the eleventh, 1924. It is impossible to estimate how much greater the progress of the University would have been if the site question been settled, when it first became an issue in 1907, instead of being allowed to absorb, through six many years, the energies of successive University Councils and later of the Boards of Governors. The University at this location of the University has retarded the growth of a consistent policy either on the part of the Government or the University. Neither college nor University has felt free to act, except in so far as the Government permitted.

Yet the University has made noteworthy progress, particularly since 1920. The University of Manitoba, a Canadian University has been as poorly housed as that of Manitoba. The University of Manitoba has been hampered by conditions which make co-operation between the departments and the various faculties of the University is carried on, and the lack of a campus, of an assembly hall, and of the facilities for temporary students of the several faculties, working or living together. Above all the feeling of uncertainty as to policy, and indecision as to site has tended to neutralize efforts, and has drawn the University of Manitoba has been able to fulfill its function of educating the youth of the province to the degree. The people of Manitoba may with reason be ashamed of the conditions which have hampered the University. They have accepted the responsibility for the future of the University, and on their most rest the blame if it falls any of its efforts.

Arts and Science

The inception of what is now the faculty of Arts and Science is found in the establishment, in 1904, of the first chairs in the University of Manitoba, for, although it was not until 1921 that the faculty was organized in its present form, four of the five chairs founded in 1904 are now included in the faculty of Arts and Science and the courses of study at that date were the nucleus of the B.A. and B.Sc. courses of today.

In 1905, mainly through the efforts of Dr. Bryce—one of the three half-time instructors who had been the entire teaching staff since 1900 when teaching was begun—Lord Strathcona became interested in the University and donated \$20,000, to be paid in four annual instalments of \$5,000 in the years 1904-07. With this amount, added to the \$6,000 the provincial government was willing to provide, and in view of a possible income in the University's revenue, five chairs were established, each with an annual salary of \$2,500. To these five were added a chair of Bacteriology (including Pathology and Histology)—which three subjects are included in the faculty of Medicine—"on the understanding that the provincial government would contribute to the salary of its salary as provincial bacteriologist." The six chairs and the men appointed to them were:

The chair of Physics—Prof. Frank Allen.
The chair of Botany—Prof. A. H. R. Sutherland.
The chair of Chemistry—Prof. M. A. Parker.
The chair of Physiology—Prof. R. Wale Vincent.
The chair of Mathematics—Prof. R. E. Cochrane.
The chair of Bacteriology—Gordon Bell.

In the department of mathematics no course at first was given in First year. It is worthy of note that of these six men three have remained with the University through all its vicissitudes and of the other three two died while in the occupation of their positions.

In the fall of 1909 the first chairs in Arts proper were established when the department of Natural Science, Economy, English and History was begun by Professors Clark, Crawford and Martin respectively. Courses in these subjects for some time were restricted to the Third and Fourth years.

Geology and Mineralogy, in the early years attached to the chairs of Physics and Botany, in 1904 were raised to the status of a department and to the chair was appointed Professor R. C. Wallace, who had since 1910 been lecturer in geology. Some years later a chair was established in Zoology, which since 1904 had been part of the work of the department of Physiology and thus was rounded out the course in science.

The chairs of French and German were established in 1913, Professor Osbourne and Heilmann, respectively, being the first appointees. The following year, 1914, the department of Classics was added with Professor F. W. Clark as its head. At the same time the staffs in English, French, German and Mathematics were augmented.

The faculty of Engineering and Architecture, although it was not organized as such until 1922, may be traced to date from the year 1904, when Professor E. E. Brydson-Jack was appointed to the newly-established chair of Civil Engineering. Two years later the department of Electrical Engineering was organized by Professor J. P. Fetherstonhaugh and thus were offered courses in engineering essentially the same as those of today. The incoming years have been marked with gradual growth, consolidation, and increase in strength, despite the check given by the war.

In 1913 a chair of architecture was established and to it was appointed Professor A. A. Stoughton. The following year a department of Mechanical Engineering was added, with Professor W. C. Rowe as its head. Thus there were now offered four courses in engineering and allied subjects.

These additions made it, at last, possible to offer the complete Arts course in all years and subjects with, in the latter, the exception of Philosophy, Hebrew, Icelandic and Swedish. Soon the student body enrolled in the University Arts was large that it outnumbered the students registered in the colleges.

The war, however, had a great and greatly reduced the student body, and peace brought a rejuvenescence of activity and the return of the large number who had been overseas. In 1920 a chair of Philosophy and Psychology was established and Professor J. W. Wright was appointed to it. Thus the list of courses offered in Arts was completed.

By the University Amendment Act of 1917 there had been added to the government of the University a Board of Governors, consisting of the members of the institution. Under the authority of this Board, a reorganization of the University was put into effect. In 1917, the twenty-six years the College has had many vicissitudes, but through all has continued to make progress.

In March, 1922, the Manitoba Legislature passed an Act calling for the establishment within the Province of an Agricultural College. Pursuant to the provisions of the Act, an Advisory Board was appointed in April, 1922, its members being: Walter Lynch, farmer, Westburn, Chairman; Alex. Morrison, farmer, Carleton Place; C. G. Barrow, farmer, St. Charles; P. Smith, farmer, Indian Ford; Col. E. A. C. Hooper, farmer, Verdun; Walter Rasser, farmer, Rensselaire; Hugh M. Dyer, farmer, Minnedosa; J. A. M. Atkins, K.C., lawyer, Winnipeg.

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During the war the absence overseas of a large number of the students and of several of the staff caused the department of Agriculture, which was then in the hands of the Government, to be discontinued and work in all years to be given to the department. When peace, active work was resumed. To the chair of Civil Engineering was appointed Prof. J. P. Fetherstonhaugh and the chair of Mechanical Engineering was not refilled and never since has a department in this department been offered.

The grouping of departments into faculties was completed by the reorganization of 1921-22, when was set up a faculty of Engineering, of which Professor F. P. Fetherstonhaugh was appointed first director. In the fall of 1922, the faculty was increased by the transference to it of the department of Architecture. Included in the faculty of Arts and Science. Since 1922 the enlarged faculty

has been known by its present name of faculty of Engineering and Architecture.

For some years after their establishment the engineering departments were housed in the old Science Building, but in 1915 the erection of what is now the Geology Building, part of the engineering work was transferred there. Shortly after this was done for the erection of an Engineering Building on the St. Vital site, but the outbreak of war resulted in the work being suspended. In 1915 the building at Portage and Sherbrook was offered to the University, but when the war was over it was found that the building was not suitable for the work.

Manitoba Agricultural College

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the engineering course. During the war congestion became so serious that at that time engineering classes were held in a room of the central heating plant on Broadway. This situation was remedied by the construction of the present one-story building and for a period the classrooms were not so crowded.

The faculty has shared in the great increase in University registration since the war and has had its problems increased by the lack of sufficient equipment and accommodation it has yet been able to maintain the high standard of efficiency in its work.

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